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The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I may inform the hon. Member that the matter has been looked into and a report has been called for."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether the amount collected was meant for the payment of the extra staff employed? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I presume that the total amount of Rs. 1,196-7-0 collected as process fees would go towards the payment of the extra staff employed for this purpose."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—" May I ask the Hon. Member whether the Government will be pleased to order the discontinuance of levying these penalties and process fees on account of the economic depression that is prevailing in the country? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I do not think so, Sir."

Alteration of the form of application for loans under the Agricultural Improvements Loans Act.

* 236 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have changed the form of application for loans under the Agricultural Improvements Loans Act; and

(*b*) if so, the changes made and the reasons therefor?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No.

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" In view of the amendment that has been made to the Agricultural Improvements Loans Act, may I ask whether the Government will be pleased to change the form of application for loans? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" May I ask what the amendment is to which the hon. Member refers? "

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" The recent amendment that has been made to the Agriculturists' Loans Act, to relieve the indebtedness of the agriculturists."

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" There will be a special form for loan applications according to that amendment. So far as I know, there is no proposal for changing the form of loan application with regard to ordinary loans."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" May I know whether it is not a fact that Government have already fixed certain districts for experimental purposes? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" Government have fixed one district and a small portion of another district to see how the new Act works there."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" So is it not necessary on the part of the Government to change the form of loan application at least for those districts? "

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The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I have already said that the new form has been prescribed with reference to loans which are granted for relieving the indebtedness of the ryots. So far as ordinary loans are concerned, there is no intention on the part of the Government to change the form."

Diwan Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" May I ask the Hon. the Revenue Member whether the work will be confined only to those districts from which applications for loans have been received or whether he is going to employ any special staff for this purpose?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I understand that Collecters have been asked, as far as possible to give figures of those cases which deserve relief under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. But before we extend it throughout the Presidency, we want to see how it works under a special staff in these two particular areas. If, as I hope, it will be a success in those parts of the Presidency, it will be extended to other areas also and if necessary special staff will be appointed for other parts of the Presidency."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" May I know how long they are going to take for trying this experiment?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" It all depends upon how the experiment works in these areas."

Diwan Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" May I know what objection the Government have to receive the loan applications from the several districts and considering them according to their merits instead of waiting for a long time to see how the experiment works in the selected areas?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" That will come, I hope, very shortly."

Recovery of instalments due under the Agricultural Improvements Loans Act in the Guntur district.

* 237 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government are collecting the instalments due under the Agricultural Improvements Loans Act in the Guntur district even in places where they have granted remissions of land revenue?

A.—The hon. Member presumably refers to cases in which season remissions have been granted by the Collector.

According to rule XXV of the Loans (General) Rules the repayment of an annual instalment may be suspended by the authority or officer, who sanctioned the loan, whenever from causes beyond the borrower's control such repayment of the instalment becomes unduly burdensome.

The Government have received a petition forwarded by the hon. Member which contains a request for the suspension of instalments due on a loan granted under the Special